



DIRECTIONS

Fish & Wildlife News

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This is an effort to keep you informed on the current budget situation. The Department has exceeded revenue projections for last year and current indications are that the current fiscal year is off to a strong start. We are managing to stay within the current budget for income and expenditures.

The State general fund revenues are still experiencing significant shortfalls in tax collections. While we are primarily funded by various fees that must be appropriated for certain activities, we are a general fund agency and are funded in part with general fund money over and above the revenue we generate from the sale of licenses etc. As part of the effort to meet the challenge of balancing the state budget, the Department has been asked to do the following:

Participate in furlough days

See note from Governor King.

Curtail spending

Contracts are receiving an increased level of review and need to be justified as needed spending on several levels.

Reduce travel in state and almost eliminate out of state travel. Capital spending continues to be frozen.

Freeze Hiring

Current vacancies will be held open unless there is a significant need and approved justification.

As other adjustments are needed we will keep you informed as to what they are and how they affect the Department.

- Lee Perry

Budget

This is a letter I hoped I'd never have to write. It involves the shortfall in the state budget and the steps we are putting in place to deal with it, a few of which will involve you.

As you know, in late April it became apparent that state revenues were going to miss targets by \$90 million in this fiscal year and another \$90 million in the next. The amount and the suddenness of the shortfall made dealing with it a real challenge. Today, I released a budget plan to the legislative leadership and the press.

The plan involves cuts in programs in virtually every area of state government-school aid, Medicaid, agriculture, DECD, DEP, my office, and everywhere else. There are substantial cuts to communities (education funding, for example), to outside service providers (nursing homes, hospitals, and others), and to programs we administer. It is a plan made up of many relatively small pieces that is designed to allow us to meet our constitutional obligation to have a balanced budget without unduly disrupting the important services we provide to Maine people.

I have been urged to solve this problem through massive cuts to the state workforce, an option I have rejected in no uncertain terms. On the other hand, since many of the cuts we will be passing on to the communities and the private sector may well result in layoffs of some kind, it is hard in good conscience to avoid all such impact on us.

The action I have settled upon is three furlough days (days off without pay) over the course of the next year, starting with Friday, July 5. The dates of the remaining two will be determined at a later date. They are likely to fall on a Friday before a holiday weekend. I have also asked Ken Walo, Director of Employee Relations, to meet with representatives of MSEA and AFSCME to try to minimize the impact this will have on the personnel and day-to-day operations of round-the-clock facilities such as those operated by Corrections and BDS.

The dollar value of these three days-spread across all state employees-is the same as that which would result from the permanent layoff of at least 100 of our workers. Given this alternative, I concluded that furlough days was a better option.

I am painfully aware that in 1995 I said that I would not take such an action; my only defense is that I never dreamed we would find ourselves in this situation-a very large shortfall that must be solved in a very short time. I have worked hard to earn your trust and confidence-in terms of contract terms, working conditions and even the occasional paid day off around the Christmas holidays. I have tremendous respect for what you do for the people of Maine and would not take this step except in the toughest of circumstances. But these are tough times and I need your help to get through them.

I can't expect you to like this decision but can only hope that you will understand that it was not taken lightly or enthusiastically.

Best,

Angus

Thank You

Spring has come and gone, the major mayfly hatches are winding down, and we are well into summer. It's been a busy year with little time to reflect on the progress of our efforts, however, much has been accomplished. The extra efforts of a dedicated staff have allowed the Department to accomplish a great deal with its limited numbers and resources.

Accomplishments have been numerous, and any attempt to list them will surely miss many contributions that have significantly enhanced the management of the states inland fish and wildlife, hunting and fishing opportunities, enforcement of fish and wildlife, landowner relations, and safe use of recreational vehicles. The Department is fortunate to have such a dedicated and extremely talented staff, a staff that routinely rises to the occasion and accomplishes things that are truly beyond normal expectations. Your efforts and accomplishments have engendered public confidence in what we do and support for our programs.

This has made it much easier to deal with the many issues that face an agency of this nature, especially the funding needed to sustain our efforts and build the foundation needed to address future needs. This has all been possible because of teamwork, dedication, seeking improvement in what we do and how we do business, and the extra effort that is put into our jobs. Thanks for the part you have played in making the Department one of the most respected agencies in the State of Maine.

- Fred Hurley

Black Bear Management Program

Over the coming year, the Department will be taking a look at its black bear management program. This review will focus on recent heavy bear harvests and their implication for attaining the Department's bear management goal and objective, which are:

Goal: Provide hunting and viewing opportunity for bears.

Objective: Stabilize the bear population at no less than current (1999) levels, through annual hunting harvests by 2005

The Department may consider a number of options. These include: seeking Legislative authority for bear management, similar to that granted for deer and moose management; modifying the Department rules governing bear hunting; and undertaking a series of information meetings with bear hunters, guides, and others interested in Maine's bear population to discuss the bear harvest.

Department wildlife biologists have determined that an annual harvest of about 3,500 bears is a reasonable estimate of the harvest needed to stabilize population growth, but recognize that further analysis is required to refine harvest objectives. The Department also recognizes the need to improve its capability to monitor the bear population and hunting harvests to detect and respond to changes in population status. Recent bear harvests have exceeded 3,500 animals.

The 2001 harvest of 3,903 bears rivaled the record harvest of 2000 (3,951) and was 12% greater than the 1999 harvest of 3,483 bears. Hunters have benefited from Maine's large bear population, estimated at 22,000 - 23,000, very close to the Department's objective level of 23,000. The bear population is below carrying capacity. Bear harvests have been increasing during the past decade and have more than doubled from 1,665 bears in 1991 to 3,951 in 2001. The Department has maintained a conservative stance on bear harvests since 1990 to promote population growth. The bear population responded and the bear harvest increased through the 1990s, despite a rather consistent level of hunting effort. Numbers of bear hunters remained rather stable from 1991 to 1998, when about 10,000 - 11,000 permits were sold annually. By 2000, permit sales increased 15% to nearly 13,000, primarily due to additional nonresident hunters. Nonresident hunters harvest the majority of bears (75%), which are taken over bait. The consecutive heavy harvests posted since 1999 have stabilized bear numbers, but have not posed a problem for bear management. However, wildlife biologists are monitoring the survival of adult female bears closely. Additional restrictions on harvests may be required in the near future.

—Mark Stadler

Employee Movement

New

Ames Quimby, Conservation Aide, Swan Island eff. June 29
John Wilmot, Fish Culturist, Casco Fish Hatchery eff. June 21
John Czapiga, Conservation Aide, seasonal Atlantic Salmon Comm. Bangor, eff. June 10

Transfers & Promotions

Steve Couture, Game Warden Div. B promotion to Game Warden Pilot, eff. June 24
Durwood Humphrey, Game Warden Pilot, voluntary demotion to Game Warden Div. B District 29, eff. June 9

Retiring & Resignations

Travis Barton, Conservation Aide, Swan Island, resignation eff. June 15
Frederick Jackson, Game Warden Sergeant, Div E Ashland, retirement July 31
Kendall Warner, Biologist III, Fisheries, Bangor, retirement eff. July 31

Good Answer!

Perhaps you've seen the popular game show Family Feud, where teams made up of family members competes against one another to come up with the most popular responses to questions asked of "100 people surveyed"? As each member of the family comes up with one of the "most popular answers" their response is met with cheers of "Good Answer, Good Answer" from their supportive kinfolk. The survey generally reveals the obvious selections, but usually the number four or 5th ranked, the less obvious choice, will be the one to stump them. And oftentimes it's cleverest answer and yet, no one thinks of it. A bell rings, the answer is revealed and everyone does an "Of course sounding Ohhhhh" or repeats it with a, "why didn't I think of that"? Therein lies the long running appeal of the show. Is there anyone in the department who hasn't heard it in spades from a customer on the topic of the **new license**? "Too big, too complicated, they want too much information, can't get it in my wallet, no tags, it's not waterproof", yada, yada, yada.....

If there was ever a testimony to society's resistance to change this was it. It's amazing what a big deal, over not much, was made over it. Sadly I must admit, that the first time I saw it, I did the same thing, complain about it. It has been a challenge for us all to try and explain to folks, some with a pre-existing beef, our reasoning for the changes. It hasn't been easy.

I believe no group has been challenged more with this than the folks who have to ask for a peek at it, the Maine Game Wardens. Ask any one of them what is the most memorable story they've acquired and you'll probably here a tale of venting by a sportsman afield that's afire. And a whole lot of ribbing from the good-natured.

The best bit of responding to the "what were you guys thinking when you came up with this" question, that I've heard came from Game Warden Norman Lewis. It's the less obvious choice yet makes the most sense. In all the conversations in Augusta and elsewhere, I haven't heard a better one. Since I've used this response it has never failed to quell even the most critical and jaded of critics. Norman follows the "what were you guys thinking" question with some listening and courteous empathy. This he follows up with a couple questions of his own. "You probably heard about the big license fee increase flap we've had in the media, didn't you"? After the "yes" answer which is usually

coupled with some more negativity from the customer, Norman then asks if they **wanted** their license fees to go up? The obvious "of course not" response is then followed with a simple yet obvious observation by the man in green.

"If you look at the new license it has a whole bunch of permits and authorities on it. Each one used to represent a separate piece of paper. The new license eliminates the necessity of all those separate documents. That means less costly extra printing, and no extra print set up fees every time it's printed. Less costly storage, filing and the printing of extra amounts of each, so we wouldn't run out. One document equals less cost. Which is one way we can save you money. We are trying to find ways to keep **your** license fees from going up. Thank you, have a nice day"! Works every time. Good Answer, Good Answer!

I have not spent the time to check into it, but have been told "the new license flap set a new all- time record for complaints in the legislature". Isn't it crazy, as Americans what stirs us up? Upon hearing that my first thought was, Wow, I couldn't believe anyone is in charge of keeping those statistics. Whoever does, would be of more use doing some paperwork in our Licensing Division to help ease the massive chore they are strapped with, yet somehow manage to pull off.

As we all know, the new license was a step in transition to the Moses system. That many other states have documents of the same dimensions, and that it was crafted in the attempt to provide one stop shopping for our customers. It was a necessary first step into the future. A noble pursuit and done with the best of intentions by a licensing division that works its tail off everyday in an understaffed, fast paced, deadline filled environment, to serve us all the best way they can. From this experience we as a department have learned a great deal are moving forward to craft a 2003 license that best serves the old and new concepts.

I'm sure you've heard a lot less complaining about, "the license that can be used as a survival space blanket", than you did some months ago but if so, try Norman's answer. As time passes, like disco clothing and Boy George this hullabaloo will be, but a faint and seldom recalled unpleasant memory. In the future when we have these challenges (God knows we will, and probably one born in I&E) and one of us finds a way to meet it more efficiently we should share the solutions as Norman did with me.

- Bill Pierce

New License Design

We are currently working to design a new paper license for 2003. An effort is being made to keep the license to half of the size of this year's license. One way that we are able to do this is to separate out license types putting the most common licenses on one tablet and the less frequently used types on another. The proposed license is printed in this newsletter. If you have suggestions please e-mail or call Don Kleiner with your suggestions. Thanks in advance for your help and thoughts.

2003 MAINE Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

License year 1-1-2003 to 12-31-2003

License Number

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Legal Residence: City/Town _____ State _____

D.O.B. ____/____/____ Hair ____ Eyes ____ Sex ____

Height ____ Weight ____ Driver's License # _____ State _____

License Type	Resident	Non Resident	Alien	Agent Fee
Supersport	m 1745 \$15	m 1745 \$15	m 1745 \$15	- -
Hunt	m 1752 \$19	m 1757 \$85	m 1759 \$125	\$2
Fish	m 1753 \$19	m 1766 \$50	m 1721 \$70	\$2
Archery	m 1754 \$19	m 1758 \$55	m 1723 \$70	\$2
Hunt/Fish Combo	m 1751 \$36	m 1772 \$123	m 1720 \$176	\$2
Arch/Fish Combo	m 1744 \$36			
Junior Hunt	m 1750 \$5	m 1755 \$25	m 1755 \$25	\$2
Small Game	m 1749 \$12	m 1708 \$55	m 1722 \$70	\$2
3 Day Small Game		m 1748 \$30	m 1748 \$30	\$2
Muzzleloading	m 1786 \$11	m 1787 \$33	m 1788 \$58	\$1
Migratory Waterfowl	m 1713 \$5.25	m 1713 \$5.25	m 1713 \$5.25	\$.25
Pheasant	m 1704 \$15	m 1704 \$15	m 1704 \$15	\$1
Fall Turkey	m \$10	m \$40	m \$40	- -
Bear	m 1796 \$25	m 1797 \$65	m 1797 \$65	\$2
Coyote Night Hunt	m 1782 \$2	m 1782 \$2	m 1782 \$2	\$2
Duplicate License	m 1801 - -	m 1801 - -	m 1801 - -	\$2
Sub-total				
Agent fee				
TOTAL				

Original 2003 License # _____ (for duplicate license)

Will you hunt migratory birds in 2003? ☐ Yes ☐ No Migratory Bird

Program Participant

By signing this license I verify that I am legally able to hold the licenses I have purchased

Applicant Signature _____

Agent # _____ Issuer's initials _____ Start Date ____/____/____ Start Time ____:____ am pm

TRANSPORTATION TAG

Species _____ 2003 License # _____

Name _____

Address _____

TRANSPORTATION TAG

Species _____ 2003 License # _____

Name _____

Address _____

Migratory Bird Program Participant

If you wish to hunt migratory birds, you must be a participant in the Migratory Bird Program (check box on license). If you are a Migratory Bird Program Participant, how many of each of the following types of birds did you kill last year (2002)?

	Did not hunt last year.	0	1-10	11-30	30+
Ducks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sea Ducks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Geese/Brant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Woodcock	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rails/Gallinules	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coot/Snipe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

☐ Customer refused to answer survey questions

Hunting/Archery Eligibility

☐ Previous Hunt/Archery License

☐ Hunt/Archery Safety Card

☐ Affidavit

License/Card # _____

State Issued In _____

*MUST BE READ BY LICENSEE

I swear/affirm that:

A. If buying a firearms hunting license, either I am not a convicted felon or I am a convicted felon with a permit to carry a firearm.

B. If buying a resident license

1. I am a U.S. citizen domiciled in Maine continuously during the last 3 months, or a resident alien domiciled in Maine during the last year and:

a) I have complied with Maine income tax laws;

b) if registered to vote I am registered in Maine;

c) if licensed to drive I have applied for a Maine drivers license; and

d) if motor vehicles owned by me and located in Maine, they are registered in Maine; or,

2. I am a member of the U.S. Armed Forces permanently stationed in Maine, or a spouse or child of such a person.

Greenville Projects

Inland Fisheries & Wildlife's Greenville Headquarters and hangar renovations are well underway.

Work on the hangar included the replacement of exterior doors and windows; exterior lighting; repair of the foundation; and a fresh coat of paint (inside and out). The heating, plumbing and electrical have also been replaced and upgraded. Let's not forget the replacement of the overhead hoist and construction of the air lock. Last but not least, the bathroom and office were also renovated. Completed on schedule (6/30) and within budget (\$104,000.00).

The existing headquarters is scheduled for a 69' x 36' addition, renovations, and construction of a new parking area. To date, the foundation work has been completed as well as the framing of the building, roof and interior. Completion date is targeted for October 30. Total cost of the headquarters project to date is \$411,000. So far, we are on schedule and within budget.

- Ron Taylor

Employee Recognition Field Days

Department employee recognition field days are scheduled for September 6th at Hermon Rod and Gun Club and September 20th at Richmond Rod and Gun Club. These events were a big success last year. Everyone enjoyed the shooting and other opportunities. Each employee will be getting a letter describing the events that will be available to them and a guest in the next month.

Moose Management Update

This summer the Department is considering the number of moose hunting permits it will issue for the 2003 moose hunt. The number of permits will be based upon the new moose management goals and objectives developed by the Big Game Working Group and Wildlife Division biologists. The Department is planning to conduct a series of information meetings with moose hunters, guides, and others interested in Maine's moose population to discuss moose management goals and objectives, the status of Maine's moose population, and number of moose permits to be issued.

In 1999 the Department convened a Big Game Working Group as part of its wildlife species planning process. This working group assisted the Wildlife Division in developing goals and objectives that would guide moose management for the next ten-year period. The working group considered three concerns when they developed their moose management goals and objectives: hunting opportunity, viewing opportunity, and road safety.

The working group put each of Maine's 30 wildlife management districts (WMDs) into one of three categories based on the management goals they developed. The categories were 1) recreational management, 2) road safety, and 3) compromise management. In the recreation management area, hunting, and usually viewing, were the most important goals. In the road safety area, reducing the number of moose/vehicle collisions was the only goal.

For WMDs in the road safety and compromise management areas, the current moose populations are considered to be unacceptably high, and the working group recommended that these populations be reduced. For WMDs in the recreation management area, the working group wanted to have high moose populations, but not so high that habitat would be damaged or animal health would be compromised. The working group also decided that it was important to maintain an even sex ration and have large bulls for both viewing and hunting.

Moose numbers within all WMDs in the recreation management area are below population objectives established by the working group; moose numbers in the compromise management area are above target. By definition, moose numbers in the road safety area are also considered to be above target — these WMDs occur in southern and coastal Maine, a part of the state where moose hunting has not recently occurred.

—Mark Stadler

Duck!

If I ask you to go fly-fishing with me, maybe you ought to think twice. Friend and coworker John Boland from Region A might suggest that you not do it on a windy day in a canoe. As the picture shows above John was not counting on having his ear "Pierced" on the trip. The ear was done most precisely on a back cast afoul in a stiff gust, with a lovely double bead yellow stonefly. In an instant, the picture of fashion he was. Despite John's insistence on staying to fish and that it no longer hurt, I wanted to leave. Thank God it wasn't an eye! Because the hook went clear through the lobe and then started back in again to the barb, I was unable to remove it for John with what I had learned long ago as the standard procedure. Pinch off or flatten the barb and then back it out or pinch off the body of the fly and push it through. John' double piercing required it to be pushed through undamaged territory and I felt I had inflicted quite enough damage for one day. This had never happened to me before. We stopped at a store on the way out and John proudly displayed the adornment to many who thought it was an intended piercing. When John got to the hospital the nurse couldn't figure out what was wrong with him and he had to point out that the fly was not an earring. The fly was then removed by (I am not making this up) Dr. Pickerel. John and I have fished together several times since this incident, brave soul. (picture is on CD in my office)

- Bill Pierce

Life's Changes

Have you recently had a change in your marital status? Perhaps you have a newborn child. If so, you may want to make a change in your beneficiary designation for your life insurance or your retirement. The Maine State Retirement System manages both your State retirement and life insurance plans. You can find out who your designated beneficiaries are by putting your request in writing to Maine State Retirement System, 46 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0046. Be sure to include your social security number in your correspondence. An easier way to make sure you have the correct beneficiary designated is to complete a new designation of beneficiary form. The new form will supersede any prior designation of beneficiary form. You can obtain both designation forms by contacting Ron Soucy at 287-5212.

Something else to think about is whether or not you have the life insurance coverage that you want. Upgrade/downgrade your level of coverage? Maybe you would like to add dependent life insurance to your plan? Or maybe, you want to delete someone from your dependent life insurance plan? Please call Ron Soucy in Payroll if you have any questions about your coverage or would like the necessary forms.

- Janet Silva

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